

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00576 222158Z
ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR PEPR NS GY
SUBJ: MORE OF GUYANA PROTEST NOTE LEAKS

REF: PARAMARIBO 570(NOTAL)

1. APRIL 21 EDITION OF "DE WARE TIJD" CARRIES LEAD
ARTICLE CONTAINING WHAT ARE APPARENTLY ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
OF REMAINDER OF PROTEST NOTE DELIVERED BY GUYANESE
AMBASSADOR SAUL TO PRIME MINISTER ARRON ON APRIL 12,
WHICH DEALS WITH GUYANESE POSITION ON THE CORANTIJN RIVER
BOUNDARY. FOLLOWING ARE OUR INFORMATION TRANSLATIONS
FROM THE DUTCH VERSION AS PUBLISHED.

2. QUOTE. GUYANA CONSIDERS THE CORANTIJN RIVER FROM
ITS SOURCE IN THE UPPERMOST BRANCHES OF THE CUTARI RIVER
AS THE ALREADY LONG-ESTABLISHED BORDER WITH SURINAM.
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THAT POSITION WAS FULLY ACCEPTED BY THE NETHERLANDS
GOVERNMENT FOR A LONG TIME. THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
MAINTAINS THAT THE ACTUAL BOUNDARY ON THE RIVER RUNS
ALONG THE MIDDLE OF THE THALWEG AND WHERE THERE IS NO
THALWEG, ALONG THE MIDDLE LINE OF THE RIVER.

3. QUOTE. THE LETTER CONTINUES: THAT POSITION WAS

EARLIER HELD BY THE UNITED KINGDOM AND RECOGNIZED BY THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT AS CORRECT AND IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT IN AGREEMENT WITH THE DRAFT TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS THAT NEEDED ONLY TO BE SIGNED IN 1939, AND IN ACCORD WITH PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS ON WHICH THE DRAFT TREATY WAS BASED, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE THEN COLONY OF BRITISH GUYANA, IN THE INTEREST OF FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD RELATIONS, AGREED WITH THE REQUEST OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT THAT THE BOUNDARY WOULD BE FORMED BY THE LEFT BANK OF THE RIVER.

4. THIS CONCESSION WAS MADE WITH A VIEW TO A SOLID PROMISE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS THAT IT WOULD FORMALLY GIVE UP AN ABANDONED CLAIM WHICH HAD BEEN MADE IN THE NAME OF SURINAM TO THE TRIANGLE OF LAND FORMED BY THE NEW RIVER AND THE CUTARI RIVER. THE ACCORD WAS BASED ON THE CONDITION, CLEAR BEYOND ALL QUESTION, THAT ALL EARLIER APPOINTED RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY (GUYANA) TO MAKE USE OF THE RIVER, WHICH IN MANY WAYS THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO LIVE ON ITS BANKS HAVE NEED OF, WOULD BE HONORED, PROTECTED, CONTINUED AND SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECTED. ALTHOUGH THE TREATY WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED, THE ARRANGEMENT ON WHICH IT WAS BASED

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THENCEFORTH GOVERNED THE BEHAVIOR OF BOTH PARTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE RIVER.

5. QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAM HAS HOWEVER BROKEN THE AGREEMENT REFERRED TO BY RENEWING ITS PREVIOUSLY RELINQUISHED CLAIM TO THE NEW RIVER TRIANGLE AND BY PREVENTING IN AN ARBITRARY AND ARMED MANNER NATIONALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA FROM MAKING USE OF THE RIVER FOR DAILY PURPOSES FOR WHICH THEY HAD USED THE RIVER FOR CENTURIES ALREADY.

6. QUOTE. UNLESS AN ARRANGEMENT IS REACHED, THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA WILL CONSIDER ITSELF RELEASED FROM THE PRE-WAR BRITISH UNDERTAKING TO CONSIDER THE LEFT BANK OF THE RIVER AS THE BOUNDARY AND WILL NATURALLY FEEL OBLIGATED TO UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS IN AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW AND LEGAL PRACTICE TO SECURE ITS JUST RIGHTS ON THE RIVER. UNQUOTE.
ZURHELLEN

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